

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P;JJSISCO

APPROVED BY P - JOSEPH J. SISCO

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 220490

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: GREEK CARGO SHIP THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

FOR AMBASSADOR TOON FROM UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

1. DINITZ CALLED ME AND CLAIMED HE HAD JUST HAD A CALL FROM RABIN THIS MORNING TO MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING THE GREEK SHIP WITH ISRAELI CARGO WHICH THEY WANT TO HAVE GO THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. I TOLD HIM THAT YOU HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED OVER THE WEEKEND TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE GOI. I THEN CONVEYED THE ENTIRE SUBSTANCE OF STATE 218802 TO HIM. I ADDED ONE OTHER POINT, NAMELY, NOW THAT THE ISRAEL/US MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN LEAKED, THIS WAS EVEN A WORSE TIME FOR ANY ISRAELI CARGO TO GO THROUGH THE CANAL. DINITZ THEN ASKED ME WHEN DID WE EXPECT THAT IT COULD GO THROUGH, CALLING TO MY ATTENTION THE FACT THAT THE PROTOCOL COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THAT THE COMMITMENT WAS FOR THE CARGO TO GO BEFORE THAT. I TOLD HIM THAT I CANNOT GIVE HIM ANY SPECIFIC DATE AND THAT ISRAEL SHOULD

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BE UNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER SINCE EGYPT HAS ENOUGH

ON ITS HANDS RIGHT NOW DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST THE ARABS
AND THE SOVIETS, AN ATTACK WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE

STEPPED UP IN LIGHT OF THE LEAK OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO DINITZ QUERY AS TO WHETHER
THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THE GREEK SHIP STANDING BY,
I SAID THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA SINCE
EGYPT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO MOVE ON THIS MATTER
WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

2. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER DINITZ IN FACT HAD HEARD FROM
RABIN THIS MORNING, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT
AU COURANT REGARDING ANY CONVERSATION YOU MAY HAVE HAD
THIS WEEKEND WITH THE GOI ON THIS MATTER. PLEASE FOLLOW UP
AS APPROPRIATE.
SISCO

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NNN

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